Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Survey
2004

By Jessica Kitchell

Abstract

The number of pheasants seen during the 20-22 of April survey period by rural mail carriers per 100 miles driven was 0.81. This is a 19% increase from 0.68 observed in 2003. The number of pheasant seen per observer also increased from 1.0 in 2003 to 1.2 in 2004.

Methods

Survey forms were mailed in early April to postmasters in 32 counties across Wisconsin's pheasant range. Postmasters were asked to distribute the forms to their rural mail carriers. Carriers were instructed to record their route number, distance driven, and the number and sex of pheasants seen along their route on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the third full week of April. Data from the returned surveys were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

In an effort to expand coverage of the Rural Mail Carrier Survey, Grant county was added in 1995 to the list of counties that were surveyed. None of the totals for Grant county will be used in the statewide totals so a long term trend can be observed.

Results

Rural mail carrier participation increased by 5% in 2004. Six hundred and eighty four respondents saw 817 pheasants during the April 20, 21, and 22 survey period. This is a 23.8% increase from the number of pheasants seen in 2003. During the survey period the weather was primarily cloudy, cool, and rainy; less than ideal survey conditions. The counties with the highest number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven were Lafayette (4.79), Iowa (4.14), Barron (2.23) and Grant (1.79) (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The statewide average number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven increased to 0.81 in 2004, a 19% increase from 2003. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven is higher than the long-term mean of 0.60 (Figure 1). The number of pheasants seen per observer increased 20% from the 2003 ratio of 1.0 to 1.2 in 2004.

Table 1. *Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Sightings 2002-2004.*

	Pheasants Sighted			Sightings/100 miles Driven		
County	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
Barron	0	15	38	0.00	1.16	2.23
Brown	34	9	11	0.91	0.18	0.17
Calumet	1	12	2	0.08	0.52	0.08
Columbia	0	12	11	0.00	0.30	0.30
Dane	26	36	51	0.35	0.44	0.67
Dodge	9	17	30	0.20	0.42	0.77
Door	2	11	9	0.13	0.59	0.42
Dunn	7	5	6	0.39	0.42	0.51
Fond Du Lac	60	41	34	1.50	1.03	0.79
Grant[1]	52	86	135	0.76	1.19	1.79
Green	20	21	26	0.60	0.75	1.22
Green Lake	7	7	24	0.34	0.36	1.16
Iowa	77	52	99	2.69	1.62	4.14
Jefferson	20	90	31	0.49	2.12	0.96
Kenosha	0	9	0	0.00	0.78	0.00
Kewaunee	8	5	15	0.34	0.23	0.65
Lafayette	35	11	85	1.99	0.76	4.79
Manitowoc	69	3	10	2.06	0.10	0.31
Oconto	5	8	9	0.21	0.35	0.38
Outagamie	8	34	34	0.18	0.78	0.89
Ozaukee	1	6	8	0.05	0.45	0.81
Pierce	24	23	49	0.65	0.74	1.60
Polk	19	19	37	0.58	0.65	1.03
Racine	8	3	3	0.22	0.14	0.11
Rock	11	21	23	0.21	0.84	0.49
St. Croix	40	45	49	0.73	0.94	0.76
Shawano	9	15	7	0.53	0.66	0.29
Sheboygan	11	16	28	0.33	0.44	0.77
Walworth	3	9	9	0.08	0.15	0.21
Washington	11	27	23	0.37	0.91	0.69
Waukesha	24	27	15	0.46	0.58	0.31
Winnebago	12	4	41	0.82	0.20	1.25
Unknown	10	41	0	2.92	5.34	0.00
Total	571	660	819	0.56	0.68	0.81

[1]Not included in totals

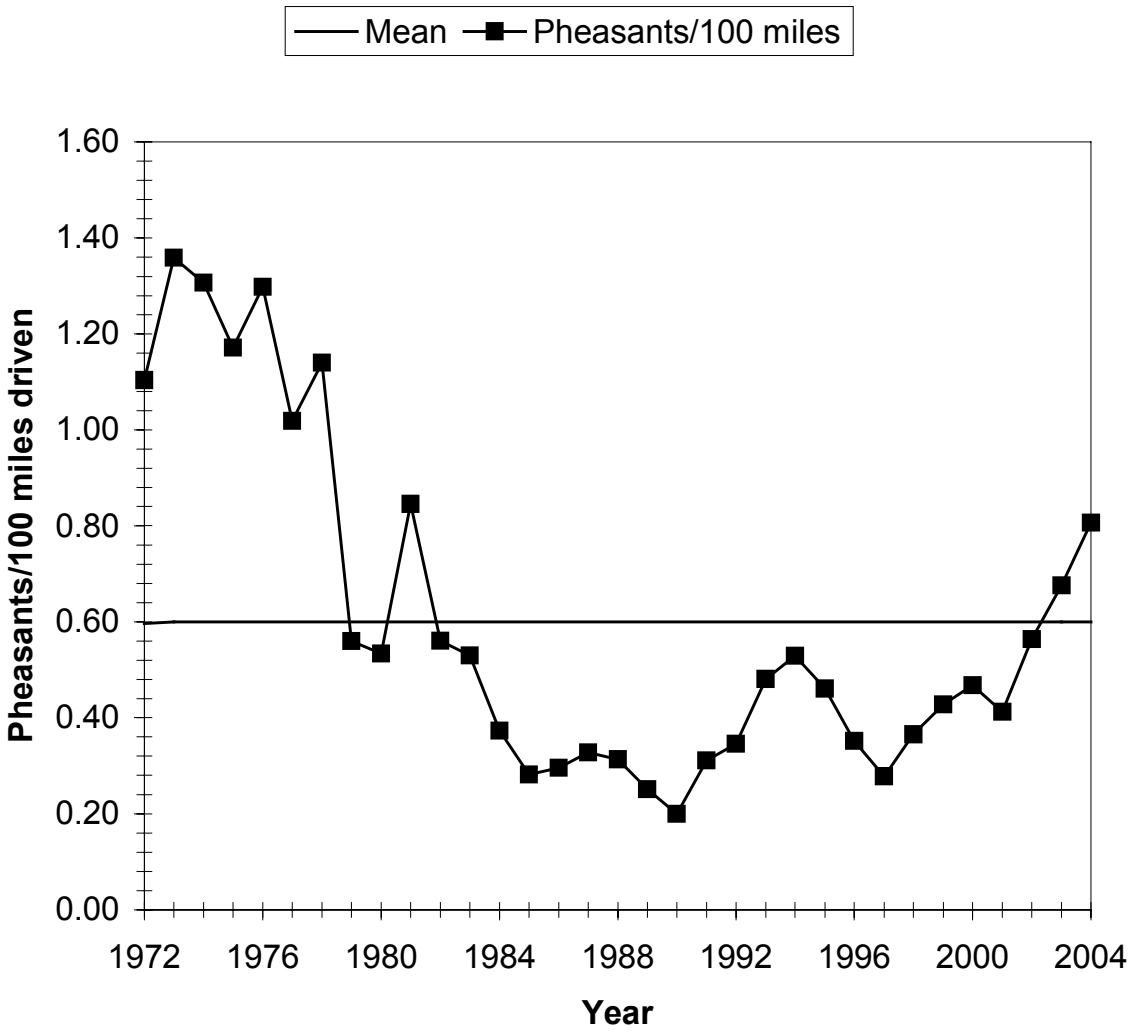

Figure 1. *Pheasants seen per 100 miles driven, 1972-2004.*

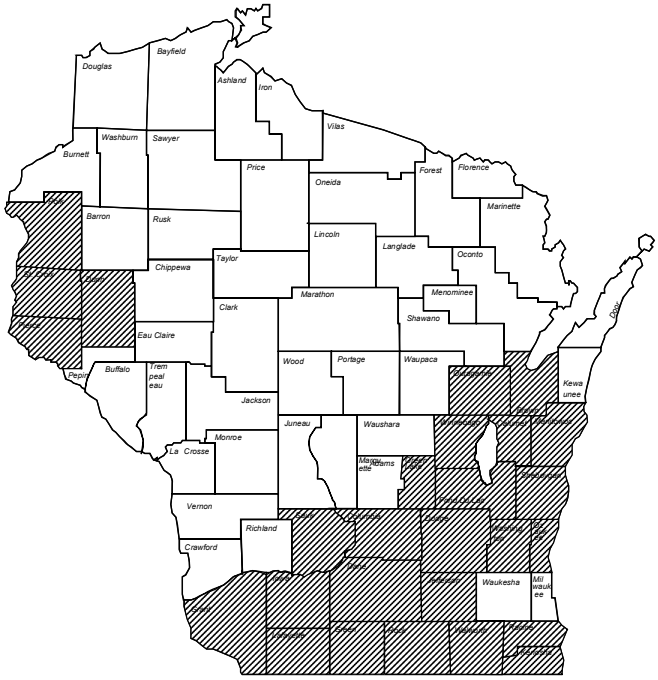

Figure 2. *Counties encompassing all or some of Wisconsin's primary pheasant range.*